

Transcript of Press Availability Before House Democratic Caucus Meeting

WASHINGTON
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□ – Congressman John Larson

Rep. Larson:

Good morning and I hope you're all doing well.

I'm honored to be here this morning with our Vice Chair, Xavier Becerra, who is of course one of our congressional leaders.

We are certainly heartened by the fact that the Republicans have come around with regard to the payroll tax cut.

So with that, while we continue to push to make sure we bring the President's jobs bill to the Floor, this is a significant step forward.

With that, let me turn it over to the Vice-Chair of our Caucus and one of our leading conferees, Xavier Becerra.

Rep. Becerra:

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

It seems that if you take a look at how we started this conference, Democrats said from the very beginning

It seemed for a while that this conference might bog down on extraneous, controversial issues that were

It now appears that on those three main issues, that we've made progress and that is good. The devil ce

Rep. Larson: Thank you very much and

Q: Specifically what remain

Rep. Becerra: I think the details on how

There is concern on the part, at least of this particular conferee, that we would be changing precedent if

But we need to see the details of exactly how we will pay some of these provisions and how some of the

Q: It looks like the plan mig

Rep. Becerra: The Chairman would pro

The cut in benefits from what they currently are to something dramatically less, for me, would be unacce

There are some states who are fortunate and don't have high levels of unemployment and what we wan

Rep. Larson: We still regard unemploy

They would then go to TANF under our rules and under our laws within our states, which, of course, is a

So we continue — we would of course prefer the 99 weeks, etc, but whatever happens, ultimately, will b

One more question, then we've really got to go.

Q: Republicans and Democ

Rep. Larson: We agree with the Democ

{Laughter}

Rep. Becerra: That's where, as I said, t

Q: There no concern that th

Rep. Becerra : I remember when I was

We make look at this — or some politicians make look at this – from a global perspective. I think most A

And, ultimately, we still have to get a vote out of the conference and get the President to sign it after a C

Q: If it's a long ways it does

Rep. Larson: Listen, we've seen this p

But, as the Irish say, "It's a long way to Tipperary."As you all painfully know, things have had the ability t

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